RECORDS OF ARMATHWAITE PRIORY, AINSTABLE. c.1200-1556.
A House of Benedictine Nuns

A compilation of references to Armathwaite Priory**.**

Edited by Harry Hawkins

MS Sources

No. 5 is the only known accessible pre-Dissolution MS source although the Patent Rolls and Chancery Rolls are extant at National Archives.
No. 8 is a handwritten transcript in the Aglionby Papers, CAC/DAY.

Printed Sources.

Hutchinson, *History of Cumberland,* vol ii, 189/190. Prints the confirmation charter of Edward IV (1473) in Latin and summarizes the Dissolution Survey.

Winchester, Angus J L (ed.), *John Denton's 'History of Cumberland',* CWAAS RS, vol XX.

Monasticon Anglicanum. John Caley, Sir Henry Ellis, Rev Bulkeley Bandinel. Eds. (1844). vol 5. Prints extracts from the Patent Rolls including the suspicious foundation charter – which is not printed in the *CPR* as the editors regarded it as a forgery. Prints *Paper Survey* of 1537 with land, tenements, tenants and rents.

Patent Rolls, Close Rolls and other Calendars. Relevant entries. Digitized copies can be found on 'Medieval Source Material on the Internet – medievalgenealogy.org.uk' and british-history.ac.uk.

VCH Cumberland ii. Provides a Pre-Dissolution history, the editor discusses the 'spurious' charter and notes similarities with that of Beverley.

MRH. Knowles and Hancock, *Medieval Religious Houses, England and Wales,* Harlow 1953 (reprint 1994) 253, 256:-

> *The priory of St Mary was in existence by c.1200; the charter in Mon. attributing the fdn. to William II in 1089, is spurious: VCH. There may have been c.10 nuns in the 13th. C. The temporals were assessed at £10 in 1291. The buildings have been totally ruined by the Scots in 1317-18, and the lands had been laid waste in 1331. There were 3 nuns besides the prioress in 1537.*

Sources are given against each record.

cknowledgements

My thanks are due to all those who have help and advised me on the long road of discovery into the history of medieval religious houses from the beginnings of an idea to ‘do something’ about Shap Abbey and the completion of *Records of Shap Abbey*[1] to this compilation of *The Records of Armathwaite Priory.*

First to the late John M Todd for his initial advice, guidance and support and for acting as my editorial mentor, to Dr Peter Franklin who not only translated but also transcribed and translated unpublished medieval deeds for me, to Ann Stuart for her research in the National Archives and British Library, the staff of the Cumbria Archive Centre at Carlisle, Canon David Weston who allowed me access to the volumes of *Monasticon* in Carlisle Cathedral Library and lent me a copy of David M Smith’s *English Episcopal Ata 30: Carlisle 1133-1292.*

I have also used records of the Dean and Chapter of Carlisle Cathedral and of the Diocese of Carlisle lodged with the Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle, and I am grateful to the Trustees of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, the Surtees Society, the Chetham Society and the Canterbury and York Society for entries in the *Records* which have been extracted from their publications.

Finally a word of thanks to those groups and societies that asked me to talk to them about the priory and the nuns; planning such talks concentrates the mind wonderfully and I hope that on the occasions when I know I talked for too long their ever attentive members will have forgiven me.

Harry Hawkins

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[1]Accessible at archive.org,

Introduction

The circumstances of the founding of Ermathwaite Priory are unknown and the earliest mention of it is given in Record 1.

James Wilson, editor of volume two of the *Victoria History of Cumberland,* gives an outline history of the priory based on State records and surviving and now transcribed and printed registers of bishops of Carlisle.

T H B Graham based his article on 'Nunnery' in the *Transactions* (1917) of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society on the *VCH*.

No other history of the priory has been written although local histories by Nicolson and Burn in *History of Westmorland and Cumberland* and Hutchinson in his *History of Cumberland,* give short accounts based on what records were available to them at the time. Later guide books that include a mention of the priory or 'Nunnery' as it became known after its dissolution, draw on the *VCH* and the article by Graham.

As mentioned, the foundation of the priory by whom and when is unknown; the charter granted by Edward IV in 1480 naming William II as founder is not printed in the *Patent Rolls* as the editors regarded it as a forgery and neither is it printed by *VCH,* it is however printed in *Monasticon* (1844) from which the copy printed in these *Records* is taken.

One scholar who has speculated a little as to the possible origin of the priory is Sally Thompson in her book *Women Religious: The Founding of English Nunneries after the Norman Conquest,* Oxford 1991. She draws attention to several other nunneries which came into being through a community of women who followed a hermit and makes the suggestion that the original name 'Ermathwaite' or 'hermit's clearing,' implies there was a local hermitage which attracted a community of women. At some later time the local landowner gave them land at the junction of Croglin Water and the river Eden for their church.

The manor of Ainstable in which the priory stands, was granted to Adam son of Swein by Henry I. Adam died around 1159 and left two daughters as his heirs and it is not unreasonable to suggest that one or both the daughters gave the land for the nunnery. Adam their father had founded the priory of Mount Bretton in Yorkshire c. 1154, so there was a family background in giving land to religious houses.

While it is not intended to speculate beyond the above, hermitages are recorded in Cumberland and Westmorland, one at Culgaith was also held by Adam son of Swein; for a list of hermits in Cumberland see Rotha Mary Clay in the Bibliography.

1. Before 1200.
RICHEMUNTSIRE
"Priorattus, Ingelwde, Sanctae Mariae, Moniales Nigrae.
[Stubbs, *Gervase of Canterbury, Mappa Mundi* vol ii 441.]
Stubbs, editor of *Gervase,* does not put much reliance on the *Mappa Mundi* as an accurate table of religious houses as the manuscript is undated and written by at least two different hands. Knowles (*Downside Review*, 1936) however discusses it and suggests that at the latest, the list dates from around 1200 which would place the foundation of the priory mid to late 12th century.

2. 1200 or after
No. 56 in *Register of St Bees*
…..... Sciatis me dedisse
et concessisse et hac present! carta mea confirmasse Deo et beate Marie et sancte Bege de Coupland et monachis ibidem Deo servientibus duas bovatas terre mee in Leseschalis, illas, scilicet, que jacent propinquius terre sanctimonialium de Ainstapillith in eadem villa, inter terram suam, scilicet, et Leseschalis, pro salute anime mee et uxoris mee et animarum patris mei et
[Wilson, J., *The Register of St Bees* Surtees Society vol 126 (1915).]
Wilson suggests Leseschalis is Seascale on the west coast of Cumbria in the parish of Gosforth. The grantor is Roger Bello Campo (*Beauchamp*) who appears in the Pipe Rolls 1200-1229. The Bello Campos held the manor of Little Croglin in the parish of Kirkoswald and at one time Roger was Lord of Stafole (*Staffield*)[2,] he also made grants to Wetherhal Priory. Staffield is on the east side of Croglin Water opposite the site of the nunnery. Note the nunnery is described 'as of Ainstable'. The priory held no land in Seascale in the Dissolution Survey.

3. 1199-1217
[D14] Blenkarne. 'In the time of King John and before, the Thurbyes of Thursby < & the Terribye of Terrybe & and the nunns of Armythwait > held a moietye, and the Whitbies th'other moietye.
[Winchester, Denton, 150-1] .
In the Dissolution Accounts Thomas Johnson held a tenement and five acres of land in Blencarn at an annual rent of five shillings.

4. 1212-3. 14 John.
"On Thursday next [=21 Jun 1212], at Wigton [Wiggetun(iam)], to the nuns of Ermitethwaite in Cumberland, in respect of a gift, one mark, delivered [or *handed over*] to them by the King."
[*Rotulus Misæ anni regni Regis Johannis*, 1212-13, 14 John. Cole, H ed., *Documents illustrative of English History in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries, selected from the Records of the Department of the Queen's Remembrancer of the Exchequer* (Record Commission; London, 1844). p234.] This gift was one of many King John distributed on his tour of the northern counties.

5. 1236-47 Grants to Priory of Wetherhal
a. Grant by Michael son of David de Ainstalelyt to Wetherhall Priory of half an acre of land with a toft and croft in Ruccroft between the land of the monastery of Wetherhal and the monastery of Ermynthaite.No. 162 p267

b. Grant by Michael son of David de Ainstapelit of three acres of land in Eadem refers to the land of Monialium de Hermithuait in Ruccroft. No, 163 p269.

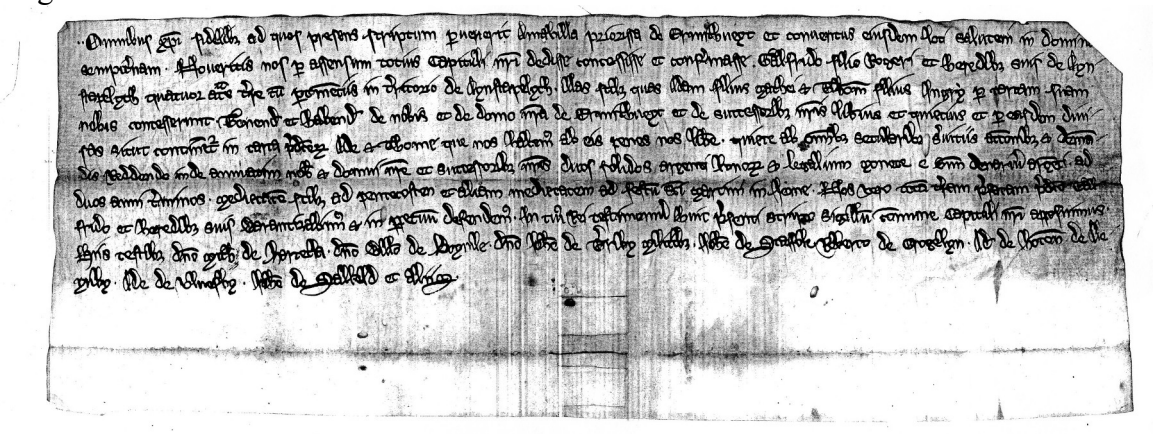
[2] N&B ii 426, *Reg Wetheral* no. 153n.
04/16/25

c. Grant by Henric of seven acres and three roods in Ainstapelit, mentions ‘porta Monialium de Ermitethait’ ie in front of the gate of. No. 166 p272

d. Quit claim by Alice daughter of David in Ainstapelit refers to the *bercarium* (sheepfold) of the Monialium of Ermyngthait, date as mid-1300. No. 169 p275-6
[Prescott, J E, *Register of the Priory of Wetheral,* Kendal (1897).]

6. 1298
Pope Boniface VIII issues decree *Periculoso* which applied the law of enclosure to “nuns of every community or order, in every part of the world, both collectively and individually”.[3]

7. Late 13th century
Grant by Amabel (*Mabel*), Prioress of Ermithueyt of land at Aynstepelyth, to Geoffrey, the son of Roger. ND.



To all Christ’s faithful men to whom this present writing shall come, Amabel [*Amabilla* in MS], Prioress of Ermithyueyt, and the convent of the same place, send greetings in the eternal Lord. Know that we, with the consent of our whole chapter, have given, granted and confirmed to Geoffrey the son of Roger, and to his heirs, of Aynstepelyth four acres of land in the district [*t(er)ritorio*] of Aynstepeyth, that is to say, those which Adam the son of Matthew and Thomas the son [of] Ingry [*Ingram*] granted to us by their charter, having and holding of us, and of our house of Ermithueyt, and of our successors, as freely and as quietly, and with the same boundaries, just as is contained in the charter of the aforesaid Adam and Thomas which we have from them in our possession, free and quit of all secular services, actions and demands, rendering yearly to us and to our house, and to our successors 2s in cash of good lawful money and 1d in cash in two annual terms, that is to say, half at Pentecost and the other half at the Feast of St Martin in Winter [*ie. 11 November, Martinmass*], and truly we will warrant and forever defend all the aforesaid land to the aforesaid Geoffrey and to his heirs, in witness of which thing, we have affixed the common seal of our chapter to the present writing,
These being witnesses: Sir Michael de Hertecla, Sir William de Boymle, Sir John de T(er)riby, knights, John de Stafol, Robert de Croglon, Adam de Hot(t)on of Aeynby,
Alan de Ulnesby, John de Salkeld and others [not named.]

[3] For discussion of the resistance by English nuns to the decree see Elizabeth Makowski, *English Nuns and the Law in the Middle Ages,* Woodbridge 2011, chapter 1. For a fuller account see also reference in footnote 2 page 11. it is not known whether this decree was enforced in Carlisle diocese.

[D/AY1/5-8(6), CAC. In medieval Latin on thin parchment, probably a copy, the only known extant medieval MS pertaining to the priory. Translated by Dr Peter Frankland (PF)]
Dated to late 13th cent by PF by handwriting; 1250x1300 by witness list.

The witness list contains names of local men who were prominent in the district from around 1253 until at least 1300. Michael de Hertecla is most likely Michael Harcla who witnessed a grant to Byland Abbey 1258x1267 [*Cartulary* no 69] and acted as sheriff of Cumberland 1285-98 and died before 1309 [*ODNB*.] He appears as a witness to a number of documents listed in N&B and *RK ii* and *RK iv.* In 1285/6 he appears as a witness with John de Terriby above, to a grant by John de Ormeshved [N&B I 515]. From 1253 until 1281 he was in dispute with the bishop of Carlisle over the manor and church of Dalston. [N&B ii 260.] Prescott [*Reg of Wetherhal* no 78 n2] says he was a brother of Andrew Harcla who was attained by Edward II but this differs from the *ODNB* and other writers who say he was the father of Andrew Hercla..

William de Boymle (Boyvill) held Thursby in late Henry III (d. Nov 1272) [Denton 429] and his son John held it in 1298/9 as this William appears to have died 1291. [N&B ii 201 and Prescott [*Reg,* no 78, n7]. William de Boyvill also held Ainstable of Richard Neville in late Henry III and when he died it passed to his son John whose brother Edmund sold it to Andrew Harcla [J Denton 87]. He was a witness to two grants to Lanercost Priory [*Cartulary* 222, 224].

John de Terriby (Tarraby, Teeribi) was witness with among others, John, son of John of Stafole, to two grants of land in Ainstable to Lanercost [*Cartulary* 73, 74] which are dated to 1222(1230x1256). In a third grant to Lanercost [*Cart.* 230, d. after 1273x1293] he appears with Robert of Croglin. He also appears as a witness to grants to Wetherhal, [*Reg* nos 78, 83,] and for another two with Michaele Hartcla, then sheriff of Cumberland [nos.110 and 111].

Robert of Croglin appears as witness to a grant to Lanercost [*Cart.* 271, d.1294] as steward of Gilsland and to another [*Cart.* 302 d.1255x1289] with John of Staffhole.

The five men, Michaele de Harctecla, William de Boyville, John de Terriby, Roberto de Croglin and John de Staffol appear together as witnesses to two other grants to Wetheral [*Reg* 190 d.1285x98, 78 d. 1260x1285].

That these five witnessed a number of the grants to Wetherhal Priory and Lanercost Priory, this one surviving deed for Armathwaite shows considerable support among the local gentry for the nunnery and probably at the time, from the monks of Wetherhal; it suggests strong links to Wetherhal.

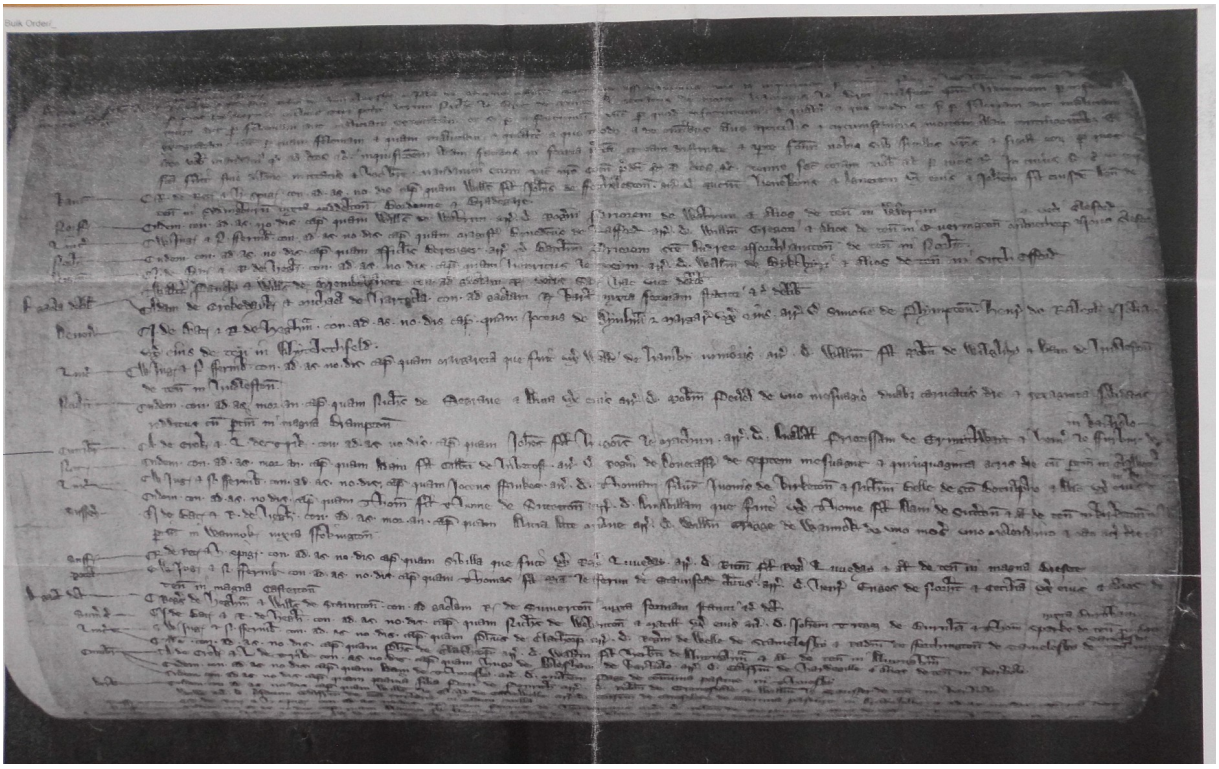
8. 1280 x 1310.
The prioress and nuns of Armathwaite request ‘a .. in Glosefel… Endorsed she is to have a writ to the justices… to deliver’(?)
[NAC SC 8/340/16035. This petition is damaged and is tentatively dated by the handwriting. Referenced by Summerson, *Medieval Carlisle,* vol 1, 84.]

9. 1291
The prioress was summoned to answer a plea of Henry de Crofton to acquit him of the service which Hugh de Crofton and Johanna his wife owe for a free tenement held of the prioress in Thoresby.
[ND. Quoted in Defendant’s Evidence in a dispute in Chancery between Richard Lowthian Ross (Plaintiff) and Francis Aglionby (Defendant) in DAY/7/4. 19th cent.]

10. 1291**.**
Taxation of the clergy
Diocese of Carlisle
Priory Ermithwaite 10. 0. 0.
[*Taxatio Ecclesiastica,* Record Commission, 1802. Copy].

11.1296
10 Jan. …. acknowledgement of receipt of procurations ordered by papal legates of the 6 marks each paid by the bishop and prior of Carlisle, the abbots of Holm Cultram and Shap, the priors of Wetheral and Lanercost, and the nuns of Armathwaite. 10 January 1296**.**
[R L Storey, *Register of Thomas Appleby 1363-1395,* 269 (Cant&York Soc.)]
This entry appears with several others dealing with papal legations in 1295/6 and 1370/1.

12. 1300-01
Cumberland – A de Crok and L de Trik were involved in a case of novel disseisin which John son of Hugh le Madrun ? defended against Annabel Prioress of Ermathwaite and Henry le Furber concerning property in Carlisle.
[*Patent Roll* {C66/120 m.13d} 28 Edw I] Transcribed and translated by Ann Stuart for the editor.[4]



Patent Roll {C66/120 m.13d} 28 Edw I.

13. 1302.
Letter from the bishop to Prior and Chapter of Carlisle, Sub-collectors of the papal tenth. In consequence of the devastation wrought by the Scots he has obtained the sanction of the principal collectors for the remission, in some cases of a third, in others of the whole, of the taxation levied on the churches of his diocese.
[*Register of John Halton,* Pt 2, 195]

[4] Ann Stuart writes - 'The case is not mentioned in the Calendar for the Patent Rolls for 28 Edward I presumably because it is not substantive.' She continues - 'Novel disseisin was one of the petty or possessory assizes created by Henry II (the others were mort d'ancestor and darrein presentment} which remained in force until 1833. It was a quick way of dealing with cases of unfair ejectment and was successful because it was simple.' Book: Donald Sutherland, *The Assize of Novel Disseisin,* Oxford 1973, accessed at archive.org. Also referenced by Summerson, vol I, 84, although mistakenly he calls the prioress 'the abbess'.

14. 1317
Sept. 9. Licence for the Prioress and nuns of Ermittwayth to acquire in mortmain lands, tenements and rents to the value of 10*l.* a year. By K.
[*CPR Edw II* vol 3 21]

15. 1317
Sept 28. Grant during pleasure to the nuns of Ermynthwayt, co. Cumberland, on York. whom much loss has been inflicted by the king's Scotch enemies, in relief of the state of their house of sufficient pasture for their beasts in the forest of Inglewode. By p.s.
[*CPR Edw II* vol 3 28]

16. 1318
Taxation of the Clergy.
De persona ecclesie de Aynstaplith xij*s* xi*d.*
[*Register of John Halton.* Pt 3 194]

17. 1319
Taxation of the diocese of Carlisle
Temporalia priorisse de Grimthueyt non taxntur quia totaliter sunt destructa.
[*Register John Halton,* Pt 3 189]
Same for Lanercost.

18. 1331
16 October. Petition to King and Council by the Prioress and convent of Armathwaite.
The Prioress and convent of Armathwaite state that they have been so ruined by the Scots that they are reduced to dependence on alms for their sustenance, request that they might be pardoned £10 which they owe the king, for victuals bought from John de Louthre and his companions in the time of his father.
Endorsed. It seems to the council, if it please the king, that it would be alms on the part of the king, for the great losses and destruction that they have suffered through the Scottish war, to pardon the said sum. It pleases the king.
[NAC SC 8/45/2230; *CPR 1330-4* 191. Parliamentary Petition 2939]

19. 1331
16 Oct. Pardon to the prioress and nuns of Ermitliwait, co. Cumberland, whose lands and rents have been very greatly wasted and destroyed by the war of Scotland, of 10*l* due to the king for victuals bought by them in the late king's reign at Carlisle. By pet. of C.
Mandate in pursuance to the treasurer and barons of the Exchequer.
[*CPR 2/20/2024Edw III* Part II, 191].

20. 1334
12 July. Interdict pronounced by the bishop and personally accepted by M William de Kendale, archdeacon of Carlisle. His relations with Alice de Culwen, a nun, cause public scandal. He is to have no further communication with her, under penalty of 100 marks.
[R L Storey, *The Register of John Kirkby 1332-1352 and the Register of John Ross 1325-32,* vol I 262 (C&Y Soc. Vol 81.)]
It is not known who Alice de Culwen was and from which nunnery. However she was probably of the de Culwen family of Workington and possibly a member of the Armathwaite community given its proximity to Carlisle.

21. 1346
10 May. Order to the collectors of the tenth and the fifteenth in the county of Cumberland to supersede the demand for the tenth and the fifteenth from the religious, ecclesiastical and laymen, in reply to their request that they be pardoned the remit of the tenth and fifteenth as several manors, towns, hamlets and places in greater parts of the county have been burnt and totally destroyed with the corn, animals and other goods by invasion by the Scots so they have nothing to cultivate their land or sustain themselves. Then long list of places in Cumberland including Hamelton in Aynstapelyth called ' le Dale' in the parish of that town.
Abbreviated entry. The priory held land in the hamlet of Dale and thus its destruction would have a serious affect on the economy of the priory.[5] Croglin, Kirkoswald, Renwick are also listed.
[*CCC 20 Edw III Pt I,* p30.]

22. 1356
2 Sept. Will of Lady Agnes, wife of Sir Robert le Denton, ...the nuns of Armathwaite, 10s
[R L Storey, *The Register of Gilbert Welton 1353-1362***,** 144 (C&Y Soc. Vol 88)]
Also mentioned is Lady Cecil de Hermythwayt who is left 2 cows and was probably the prioress. The Dentons held the manor of Ainstable at this time.

23. 1359
1 Jan. Will of John de Salkeld of Maughonby …The prioress and her sisters, 40s.
[R L Storey, *The Register of Gilbert Welton 1353-1362***,** 231 (C&Y Soc. Vol 88)]

24. 1362
25 Feb. Will of Richard de Ulnesby, rector of Ousby … the nuns of Armathwaite, a cow at Ousby.
[R L Storey, *The Register of Gilbert Welton 1353-1362***,** 434 (C&Y Soc. Vol 88)]

25. 1362
25 August. Election of the prioress of Ermythwayt. In the name of God amen, the priory of Ermythwayt(e) in the diocese of Carlisle lately being vacant through the death of Lady Isabel, the last prioress of the said priory, we Cecily Dryng(e) the sub-prioress, and the other nuns of the said place, wishing to provide a future prioress for the same priory, assembled in the chapter-house of the said place on Thursday next after the Feast of St Bartholomew last past in the year of our Lord 1362 [*=25 August],* and having discussed amongst ourselves and the said nuns concerning the provision of a future prioress at length, having previously held an election by ballot we agreed unanimously, Lady Katerina de Lancastre a fellow-nun [“commoniali”] of the said house being excepted and we do choose the said lady Katherine de Lancastre. She herself, as the future

[5] See Appendix A, for property in Dale.

prioress of the aforesaid house and we notify the venerable Father in Christ and the Lord, the Lord Gilbert, by grace of God Bishop of Carlisle of this and the others whom this matters concerns, by those present seal with the common seal of our aforesaid house, given in our chapter-house, the day and year of our Lord abovesaid.
Confirmation of the said election and appointment of Lady Katerina de Lancastre as prioress of the said priory, as is clear, and be it remembered that on the 2nd day of September, namely, on Friday next after the Feast of the Decollation [ie. beheading] of St John the Baptist in the year, etc, 62 [*ie 1362*] the aforesaid election was presented to the said venerable father in the chapel of his manor of Rose which the said father examined he graciously making good the faults in the same and he appointed the said Lady Katerina she being send on ahead as so chosen as the prioress of the said house entrusting the care and administration of the spiritualities and temporalities of the said place to her who having been so appointed made obedience to the said father.
To the archdeacon of Carlisle for the installation of the same Lady Katerina and be it remembered that on the said 2nd day of September and in the year of our Lord abovesaid he wrote to the Archdeacon of Carlisle to assign to the same Lady Katerina a stall in the choir and a place in the chapter of the said priory, etc.
[R L Storey, *The Register of Gilbert Welton, 1353-1362***,** 487 (C&Y Soc. Vol 88.) Translation]
An alternative English spelling for the Lady Katerina is Katherine. The de Lancastres were a prominent local family in Westmorland. This is the only record of a bishop being notified of the election of a prioress for the priory.

26. 1363
February. Proof of age of John son of Alice late wife of late Thomas de Kirkbythore.
List of jurors includes 'John Warde the younger, aged 52 years, agrees and says that in the same year he had a daughter Alice made a nun in the priory of Ermythwayt.
[C*al IPM Edw III vol XI,* 474]

27. 1368
10 June. Proof of age of John son of Richard de Hotoun Roof.
List of jurors includes: 'William de Vaus of Caterlen, aged 43 years, agrees and says that in the same month he had a sister Alice made a nun in the priory of Ermythwayt, and that is 21 years ago and more.'
[*Cal IPM 41 Edw III* 181]

28. 1374
18 November. Will of Thomas de Anandale, rector of Asby, dated 18 November 1374. ...The nuns of Armathwaite, 20s.
[R L Storey, *The Register of Thomas Appleby 1363-1395* 317 (C&Y Soc. Vol 96)]

29. 1377
13 May. Will of William de London, citizen of the city of Carlisle. The nuns of Armathwaite, 3s. 4d.
[R L Storey, *The Register of Thomas Appleby 1363-1395* 465 (C&Y Soc. Vol 96)]
In no. 495 of *The Register*, Joan de London who was most probably the wife of William, left a hood of black cloth to Joan de London, a nun, and also pledged 2 copper pots. It is most likely that Joan the nun, was a member of the community at Armathwaite and a relative.

30. 1379
16 January. Will of Roger de Salkeld. Burial where God pleases. …The nuns of Armathwaite 6s 8d.
[R L Storey, *The Register of Thomas Appleby 1363-1395* 505 (C&Y Soc. Vol 96)]

31. 1386
8 December. Will of John de Dounthwayt, dated 8 December 1386. … The nuns of Armathwaite, 40s.
[R L Storey, *The Register of Thomas Appleby 1363-1395* 643 (C&Y Soc. Vol 96)]
He also left two hermits of Cockermouth 6s 8d to be divided equally between them. This is the only known reference to hermits at Cockermouth.

32. 1446. Sir John Denton enfeoffed the manor of Ainstable to William de Moore, vicar of Ainstable. In his turn William enfeoffed Thomas Dacre, 6th Lord of Gilsland and Phillipa his wife, and William Marshall, vicar of Kirkoswald. The conveyance was challenged by later Dentons but William de Moore swore an affidavit dated 9 January 1448, that it had been Denton's intention that the manor be passed to Dacre.[6]
The Dacres were a powerful family in north Cumberland, the chaplain to the brother of Thomas Dacre, 2nd Lord Dacre (1467-1525), was probably Hugh Dacre who was a priest, was said to also be chaplain to the nuns of the priory.[7]

33. 1467-1473
ND. Petition. To the right Reverent ffader in God the Bysshop of Bathe and Wellis Chauncel'r of Englond
Humble (sic) sheweth unto youre goode and gracious Lordship yr Oratrix and Bedeswoman the Prioris of Armatwate yn the counte of Cumberland the which priore is of the foundacon of oure soverayne Lord the kyng and his Nobill progenitors is bot to the value of xiii s iiii d by yere and iiii wemen of religion and their servauntes to be susteyned with the same That where as oon dame Johan Layton prioris and predecessor affore ye seid suppliant be covyn betwyx her and William Atkynson havyng the covent (sic) seall under their kepyng made a lesse for terme of xvi yere under the covent seall of a cheffe [chief] ?lesse[8] of the same priorie yeldyng to the same dame Johan and her successors ii s The which mess' is worth by yere xxvi s viii d And the covent of the same place at the same tyme understandyng that the said mess' shuld haffe bee (sic) letyn to ferme to haffe borne the vere valew and upon trust thde[9] of the said deede of lesse was sealed with the covent seall And so your said suppliant and her sisters have not sufficiant of lyvelihood to susteyne theym uppon to kepe their devine servys as they ought to do in so moch that parte of theire lyvelihood by their predecessors is lette to ferme without the value under the same affore rehersed the which is to the uttermost undoyng of youre said suppliant and her sisters withoute youre gracious socur and helpe to theym be shewith in this behalffe wherfore please it yr goode and gracious lordship the premisses to have in consideration and to graunte a writte of sub pena direct to the said William Atkynson comaundyng hym by the same to appere affore the

[6] HNP DUL C/1/1. See Angus J L Winchester, *John Denton's 'History of Cumberland',* Surtees Society, vol 213 and CWAAS record Series vol XX, 87, n360. John Denton claimed Dacre 'extorted' the manor from Denton
[7] M A Clark, 'Reformation in the Far North: Cumbria and the Church, 1500-1571, *NH 32,* 78.
[8] First letters illegible but from the context is surely "lease" (AS)
[9] Unfortunately, I could not read this word (AS)
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kyng in the courte of his Chauncerie at suche day as pleasith yr lordship to lymette ther indifferently to be examined of and in the premisses accordyng to lawe right and conscience and this for the love of God and yn way of charite
Pleg' de pred' Johannes Wilson de London Gentilman
Henr' Powetrell de London Gentilman
Endorsed 'P coram R in canc' sua in Octav' sancti Johannis Baptiste[10]
[Pledges for the above John Wilson of London Gentleman [and] Henry Powetrell of London Gentleman
Plea before the King in his court of Chancery in the Octave of St John the Baptist.
[TNA C1/45/299] Transcribed by Ann Stuart (AS)

34. 1473
9 April. The king to all to whom etc., greetings,
Know that we have learnt from the lamentable report of the prioress of the nuns of the house or Priory of Armythwhayte in the County of Cumberland, situate and established near to the Marches of Scotland ["marchias Scotiae"], in what manner the aforesaid house or priory, which exist by the reason of our renowned ancestors, once kings of England, and by our patronage, has been entirely ruined and laid waste by our enemies and adversaries the Scots in its monastic buildings, precincts, and other buildings, and has been plundered of its possessions, sacred relics, church ornaments, books, and other jewels,
And what is worse, all the Charters [or *Deeds* in general], writings ["scripta"], Gifts, Latent Patent, and other evidences and muniments concerning the said priory and the possessions of the same, given to and bestowed upon the same priory by the said ancestors of old, have been burnt, removed or otherwise carried off by our said adversaries,
And thus a great part of the aforesaid possessions has been withdrawn, taken away and held back from the same house or priory, and for the same reason the consequence, standing and income of the same house or priory have been diminished, to such an extent that now the prioress and nuns being in the aforesaid house or priory do not have the wherewithal to live, or to maintain, perform or bear the cost of the divine office, divine services, hospitality, and other good works which from former times were instituted, founded and established at the same place, in a praiseworthy fashion, as they should be able to do, so that it will be inevitable that the same prioress and nuns must give up the aforesaid house or priory within a short time because of poverty, and leave off the divine office and the aforesaid works at the same place entirely, and the vows of our said ancestors, their founders, will be completely forsaken and defrauded in effect, unless they should be charitably relived by us,
And in respect of the same, the prioress and nuns have humbly beseeched us that we should wish graciously to show our royal munificence ["munificentiam regiam"] to them in this matter,
And so that the same prioress and nuns may intercede and pray for the good standing of us, and of Elizabeth our consort, and of Edward, our dearest firstborn son, and for our souls, when they shall have gone towards that light [ie., *when we have died*], and for the souls of our said ancestors,
And also so that the vows and intentions of our same ancestors may take due effect,

[10] The Nativity of St John the Baptist is 24 June; his beheading was 29 August. The octave would be the eighth day after one of those dates, probably the first. There is no year date for this document although it is probably from the second half of the fifteenth century judging by the hand and the language used, (AS). In which case the bishop of Bath and Wells would be Robert Stillington (pr. s. 1460) bp of Bath and Wells 1465-91 dism. Oct 1470. resumed office on restoration of Edw IV in April 1471, dism. 4 Mar 1473, *Handbook of British Chronology, 3rd ed.* BHS.
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Of our special grace, wishing graciously to provide for the quiet and peace of mind of the said prioress and nuns, and of their successors, we do accept, approve, ratify and confirm, for our heirs, as much as in us lies, the title, estate and possession which the same prioress and nuns have in the aforesaid house or priory, and in the lands, tenements, rents and possessions, and their other appurtenances whatsoever, which they have from the gift, grant, and foundation, confirmation or ratification of any of our ancestors, or of any other person whomsoever, and especially in that old close called [English: "le Nunclose"],
And furthermore, we do give and grant, as much as in us lies, the aforesaid priory and the other premises, with the appurtenances, to the same prioress and nuns, and to their successors,
Having to them, and to their aforesaid successors, forever, with their rights and appurtenances whatsoever, according to the first foundation ["primarium fundationem"] of the same, not wishing that the same prioress and nuns, or their aforesaid successors, should be interfered with, vexed with claims, disturbed, annoyed, alarmed or troubled or oppressed in any manner in the future, concerning their aforesaid possessions, house or priory, or other premises, with the appurtenances, by us or by our heirs, our justiciars, escheators, sheriffs, or other bailiffs or ministers whomsoever, notwithstanding any statute, act or ordinance made to the contrary,
Without any fine or fee to be taken, made or paid to us for our aforesaid Letter, or for any other cause concerning the premises in any way whatsoever,
In witness of which etc. by the king at Westminster, on 9th April [=*1473*].
[*Monasticon,* iii 271-2, Latin. Translation by Peter Franklin (PF); also in Hutchinson, Latin, ii, 185/190. *CPR 13 Edw IV* 392, the entry here is very brief.]

35. 1480
June 20. *Inspeximus* and confirmation to Isabel, the prioress and the nuns of the monastery (Armathwaite) of black nuns of the order of St Benedict by the water called Croglin, co. Cumberland, of letters patent date 6 January, 2 William II.
William, by the grace of God king of the English and duke of the Normans, to all his men faithful in Christ who shall see these present letters greetings,
Know that we, from pure motives and for the sake of charity, have founded, established and forever ordained in pure and perpetual alms, one house and monastery of the black nuns of the order of St Benedict, to the honour of Jesus Christ and of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for the souls of our ancesters and of all Christians, just as it is situated next to [or *near to*] the water called Croglyn in the County of Cumberland,
Also that we have given and granted to the nuns at the same place, the two acres of land upon which the aforesaid house and monastery are situated,
And also, that we have given and granted to the same nuns, three ploughlands [carucatas] and 10 acres of meadow, with all kinds of common rights, woods and wastes pertaining to the same three ploughlands [carucates] in any way whatsoever, lying next [or *near to*] to the aforesaid monastery,
Also, we have given and granted to the same nuns, and to their successors, forever, 216 acres of land being within our Forest on Ingilwode, lying on the north side of a certain water called Tarnwadelyn with all the woods, profits and commodies being upon the same or ever arising afterwards,
Also, we have granted to the same nuns, common pasture with all their animals, for them and for their tenants at the same place, throughout our Forest of Ingilewood and enough timber for all their buildings at the same place, whenever and as often as it shall be needed, to be taken by the delivery of our foresters, or of one of them, being in the same place,

And also, we have granted and confirmed to the same nuns, and to their successors, a certain yearly rent of 40s to be received annually, for ever, from our tenements in our town [villa] of Karlile to be paid to the same nuns and to their successors by the hand of the keeper of our aforesaid town of Karlile at the Feats of Pentecost and St Martin in Winter in equal parts,
And also, we have granted for ourselves and for our heirs that the aforesaid nuns, their tenants and servants, should be free from paying toll throughout the whole of our realm of England for any animals or property of any kind whatsoever to be bought by them, or by any of their tenants or servants, hereafter,
And also, we have granted and confirmed that the aforesaid monastery and house, with all the aforesaid three ploughlands, two acres of land and 10 acres of meadow, shuld be free in all things and have all its liberties in like manner as is granted to our Monastery of Westmynster without any annoyance, trouble or disturbance or injury from any of our sheriffs, escheators or bailiffs or from any of our ministers or lieges whomsoever,
And also we have granted to the same nuns common of pasture with their animals within the vill and commune of Aynstaplyth with free ingress and egress,
And also, we have granted that the aforesaid nuns should have liberties throughout their whole land as regards whomsoever their tenants and they should have free warren, both as regards the jurisdiction of our law-courts and also in their waters, woods, lands, plains or boundaries, belonging or pertaining to the same monastery in any way whatsoever,
Having, holding and occupying all and singular the afore-recited things to the aforesaid nuns and to their successors, forever, of us and of our heirs, in pure and perpetucal alms, voluntarily, so, by our free will and grants [English “As hert may it think or ygh may see it”; speech marks in the original,]
In witness of which thing, we have cause these Letters to be made patent
Witnessed by myself at Westminster, on the 6th day of January in the 2nd day of our reign.
[*Monastion Anglicanum* (1846) *vol iii,* 271, Latin. Translation by PF]
In *Monasticon*, (Dugdale, Abridged, Licensed, R.Midgley, 15 May 1692 p33.) the founder is described as William the Conqueror. The editors of the *CPR* (*CPR 20 Edw IV,* 208) describe the charter as a ‘forgery’ and do not print it but it must be extant in the Patent Rolls; they ascribe it to William II. Freeman also ascribes it to William II (1882, ii, 506) and dismisses the charter as ‘spurious’. Wilson (*VCH ii*) picks up from Freeman and discusses the charter’s faults.

36. 1535 Valuation of the Monasteries

Vicaria de Aynstable

	£ s d
Ricus Chydren clericus vicarius ejuidem Ecclie de Aynniftable habet manfionem et Glebam que valet coibus annis	0 10 0
Idem Ricus habet uuu. Tenement. Ejufdem Glebe in tenur. Willmi Verte q. val p. ann.	0 6 0
Idem Ricus habet Decim feni. lini et canobi. dict. p’rochie que vale’t coibus annis	6 13 0
Idem Ricus habet Decim agn. et lan. dict p’rochie que valent coibs annis	3 6 9
Idem Ricus habet decim vitul alb decim et Oblacon major et minor ac p’ficuis libri pafchalis lis cu decim uni molendini aquatic vale’t coibs ais	3 15 1
Sum total valor 8*l* 11*s* de quibus	
Refolu fenag et el: In Refolue Epo Karlij p fenagio annuatim	0 2 0

	£ s d
Et in conf refolu dict dno Epo five pencon vifitacon ejufdem de tribs in tres annos 2s 6d et annuatim	0 0 10
Sum deduct 2s 10d	
Et Rem 8*l* 8*s* 2d xma inde 16*s* 9*d*	

Domns conventual monial de Armethwaite

Agnes Derwentwater prioriffe domus cov'entualis

Monialiu de Armethwaite infra com Cumbr Patrona Eccie p'orhial de Aynftable habet Rectoria' de Ayniftable que valt in decim Gran ejufd p'rochie	6 0 0
Idem Agnes habet mansionem five Glebe de Armethwaite pr dict in manib fuis p'p'is que valent p annu coib annie	2 6 8
Idem Agnes habet unu ten dict Glebe in tenuro Rici Thomfon que valet p annu coibus annis	0 6 8
Idem Agnes habet diverfas Terr et Ten, jacent in diverfis villis et Hamlet propriis com Cumbr que valent p annu coibus annis	10 8 10

Sm total valor 19*l* 2*s* 2*d* de quibus

In refolue reddit priori de Wedderalle exiftent cella Abbathie bte Marie Virginis de Yorke an'tim	0 12 0
Et in refolue p'cucon Vifitacon Epi Karlij de triennio in trieniu 7s 6d. Et fic annuatim allocand	0 2 6

Sm deduct 3*s* 6*d*

Et Rem 18*l* 16*s*8*d*

Unde p flipend uni Capell celebrnt quotidie coram monal infra pr'orat 106*s* 8*d.*

Et rem 13*s* xma inde 26*s*

[From the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* as printed in Hutchinson, vol 1 pp197-8. Hutchinson converted the Roman numerals. The entry in the *Valor* is vol 5, pp 291-2. There is no record of the appropriation of the church to the priory nor of any presentation in the surviving bishops' registers.]

37. 1536

Feb 1536. Visitation of the Monasteries. Compendum compertorum per Doctorem Layton et Doctorem Legh, visitatione regia in provincea Eboraoensi ac episcoptu Coven. et Lichfelden.

Armathwayte Monialum. Founder, the king, rent, 14*l*.

[*LP Henry VIII,* vol 10, Jan-June 1536 (1887) no. 364.]

38. 1536

June 30. List of Monasteries of a yearly value of under 200*l*, with yearly value of each.

Carlisle - St Mary Magdalene, Lanercost; Armethua. 96*l*. 10*s*. 7*d*

[*LP Henry VIII,* vol 10, Jan-June 1536 (1887) 1238.]

39. 1537 *Monasticon,* Dugdale *v* 272-3

31 July. (*Paper Surveys*, temp. Hen. VIII, Augmentation Office.)

Armethwaite

Prioratus ordinis Sci Benedicti. The Survey then takyn the penult. Day of July in the xxixth yere of the regn of oure sofrane lord Kyng Henry th'eight.

See Appendix A, Extract from *Monasticon,* Dugdale.

40. 1539

Leases

20 July Leonard Barowe, of Armathwaite, Cumb. Armathwaite priory, with the rectory of Anestapleth.

['Books of the Court of Augmentations', *LP* Hen VIII, Vol 14 Pt 1: January-July 1539 67b (1894).]

41. 1549
22 December.
Edward VI sold to John Peryent, knight, and Thomas Rewe, gentleman, the rectory and patronage of the vicarage with the glebe lands and tithes of corn, hay, wool, lamb and all other tithes belonging to the priory of Armathwaite.
[*CalPR Edw VI 1548-9*, 8-9.]

42. 1549
24 December
Peryent and Rewe sold the patronage, glebe and tithes back to Leonard Barrow.
[*CalPR Edw VI 1548-9*]

43. 1552
March. Grant to William Greyme/Grayme (Graham) for services against Scotland, the house and lands of Armathwaite priory.
[*CalPR 6 Edw* 383-4]
The patronage and great tithes remained with Barrow.

44. 1555/6
Pensions, County of Cumberland.
Armethawite Monister. Penc. Anne Derwentwater nup. Prioress liij*s* iiij*d*
Galfrorde Chambres p. ann xxj*s* viij*d*
Anntes Margarete Standley p. ann x*s*
[Wilson, J 'The Tudor Disestablishment in 2/3 Philip and Mary' *CW1* Xiii 364-388.]

45. 1591 – 2023
William Graham passed Nunnery (as it had become known) to his second son Fergus Graham who died before June 1591 and it then went to Fergus's eldest son known as William Graham the Elder. He died in 1603 leaving Nunnery to his grandson William Graham the Younger who died in 1615.[11] In April 1621 a licence of alienation relating to Nunnery and its manor and estate was granted to Thomas and George Graham for 66s 8d.[12] In 1690 George Graham, described 'as of Smardale', sold Nunnery to Sir John Lowther and he in 1694, conveyed it to John Aglionby in exchange for Drumburgh castle.[13] Subsequent members of the Aglionby family added to the Nunnery estate until Arthur Aglionby in 1919 sold it to the Hon Richard Denman. Nunnery estate is now limited to the house and manor of Ermathwaite and 52 acres of surrounding land including the well known 'Nunnery Walks,' remained with the Denmans until sold without the manor, by the Hon Harold Denman and Lady Francis Denman in September 2001 to David Hodgkiss.[14] David Hodgkiss died in March 2020 and Nunnery was put on the market in August 2022 and sold in early 2023.

[11] C/DAY1/293. Abstract of IPM of William Graham the Younger, 20 September 13 James I, 1615, reciting IPM of William Graham the Elder. 19 January 45 Elizabeth I (1602-3). 'Pedigree of Graham of Nunnery – A' in T H B Graham, 'Nunnery', *CW2*
[12] C/DAY/1/308.
[13] Summerson, 101.
[14] The manor of Ermathwaite or Armathwaite included Nun Close until the sale to Sir John Lowther which split it from other lands of the priory.
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APPENDIX A EXTRACT FROM *MONASTICON*, 272-273.

LANDS OF THE PRIORY.

NUM 1V
(Paper Surveys, temp Hen VIII Augmentation Office)

Lands in Ainstable

Prioratus ordinis Sci Benedicti. The Survey then taken the penult. day of July in the xxix year of the reign of most supreme lord Henry the eight.

The demenes. The site of the said priory with one little orchard, iij, gardens, and a little close called the Lyne Close, containing in all ij acr, by year ……..ijs

Item. j close of iiij acre land arable called the Pesse banke, and is worth by year ……...iiijs

Item. j close called the Toddholes, containing xviij acres of land, arable iiij acr, meadow x acr, waste iiij acr, worth by year……..xijs

Item. iij closes of arable land called White Close cont. xx acres and is worth by year…...xxs

Item. J close called Holme Casmok, containing j acre……...xijs

Item. J close called Kirkeholme, containing j acre arable ……...xijs

Item. J close called Highfield containing v acres, whereof is builded a house and barn, in the occupancy of Ric(hard) Thomson, and rents yearly……...vjs viijd

Item. Close there containing xliiij acres of grounds wood and waste, and is worth by year……...xiiijs iiijd

Item. Close called Bradmedow, containing ix acres, in the holding of Sir Christopher Dacre, Knight, Sm …….ixs

Smr lxixs

The Nonneclose[15]

George Chirden holdeth a messuage, Richard Garthe, John Chirder, Robert Dobson, Richard Morehouse, William Verte, ij tenements, Mary Dawson, Bland Hashok, John Walby, Laurence Lamb, Ric. Wilkinson, William Miles, Thomas Falder, William Mathewson, John Aldcorne, Rowland Banys, William Baynys, everyone of them hold a tenement there at vs rent by year in all ccxvj acres land……. iiij[li] xs

Sm pz

[15]Nunclose consisting of 216 acres is in Hesket parish 1mile NE of High Hesket.

Dalle (Dale)

Peter Hewitson and Christopher Hewitson hold a tenement, ij fierhouses, ij lathes, j crofte containing j acre, in the field vij acr arable and ij meadow. P annum….ij hens, j cock, and in harvest j arratr. et j h'ccat.[16]
Henry Verte holdith a tentement, and J Jonet Vert, with ij fire houses, ij barnes, j croft, containing di acres vj acres of arable land and ij acres meadow, p annum…. ixs &c ut ante (*as before*).
Mathew Vertye holdith a tenement, with a croft containing di acres, vij acres of arable land, and iij acres of meadow and rents by year…….xjs, vjd. j. arratr. et j. h'ciat.
Hewgh (Hugh) Vertye holdith a tenement with a croft containing j rode, jv acres of arable land, j. acres di. of meadow and rents by year at M'tinmas and Penticost equally……...viijs ij gallin. j dies in h'ciatur. et j dies in authupn.[17]

Rowekecrofte (Ruckcroft)

Robert Hewetson the elder holdith iij acres of arable land and ij acres of meadow, with a house there, and rents by year…….iijs ij gallin. j. gall.j dies in authn. et j dies in h'aciet'
Adam Hewetson holdith a tenement with a croft j acre di. land arable and j acre of meadow in the fields there, and rents by year…….. iijs & ut ante[18]
Robert Hewetson the younger holds a tenement there, with a croft containing di. acres of land arable, j acre di. meadow in the field. P ann…….vis iiijd & ut antea
William Hewetson holdith a house with a house with a croft containing j acre di. acre iiij acre of land arable, j acre di. meadow in the field. P ann…...…vs & ut sup[a]
John Camok holdith a tenement there, with j croft containing j acre land, ij acre of arable land in the field …….iiijs & ut sup[a]
Peter Hewetson and Christopher Hewetson hold di. acre land arable in the fields, and paith by year, at the terms of Mtynmes and Pentecoste equally……. xijs

Anestaplith (Ainstable)

Antony Robson holdith a tenement with a croft, ij acre of land arable in the fields, and di. acres of meadow, and rents by year……..ijs iiijd[19]
Thomas Hoggerd and Christopher Thompson hold ij tenements with ij crofts containing vij acre of land arable, and rents by year either of them iiijs vjd…….ixs ij. gallin, j dies arrat. et j h'ciat. vel xiijd
Richard Simpson holdith a tenement with a lathe and a croft containing di. acre. per annum …...ijs vjd &c ut ante[20]
The wife of Robert Wilson holdith a tenement with a croft containing di. acre of land arable ……. ijs iiijd

[16]These must abbreviations for services, but what services?
[17]'Gallin.' a hen in rent (*Latham*). 'dies' is days and 'authupn' surely is autumn; what is 'h'aciet'?
[18]Note that four persons hold arable land in the field(s) in Ruckcroft suggesting there was a common field.
[19]Two hold land in the 'fields' in Ainstable
[20]What is a 'lathe'?
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Anthony Hogson holdith a tofte with a croft containing di. acre, j rod in the field of arable, and rents by the year ……..xviiijd
Robert Gray holdith a tenement, with a croft containing iij acre of arable land, and rents by year …… iiijs ij gallin. j arratr. et h'ciatur in authunpno
Christopher Thompson holdith a house and croft containing j rode land, and ij acre di. arable land and rents by year…….. iiijs

Sm xxvs viiid

Free Rent in Anestaplith

John Leche a freehold in Anestaplith paith …….vjd
John Grey for free rent there ……vjd
John Person for free rent there ……..iijs iiijd
William Lowthian for his free rent there ……..vjd

****

Lands Outside Ainstable

The Pishing of Kirkoswold

Agnes Rikerdby holdith a little close containing j acres land arable, called the Holme, p ann…….. ijd

Edward Franche holdith, an acre di. of land in Charbokelhersekewe and rents by year …….. iij bez. hav. mell vel ijs

Cumwhitton[21]

John Bowman, holdith a tenement with a close containing iij acres and rentith by year …… ijs vid

Thomas Skiverey holdith atenement containing iij acres of arable land and rents by year …… ijs vid

Blenkerne

Thomas Johnson holdith a tenement with v acre of land and rents by the year…. vs

The Pishe of Kirkland

The wife of John Hudson holdith a tenement with vj acres of land, and vj acres of meadow dry and ill lees, and rents by the year ……..vjs viijd

[21]There is a farm Nunfield at NY 506 512, first recorded 1603, *PN Cumberland.* Nunfield Cottage at NY 503 518, is labelled 'School' on 6inch 1st edition.

Glassonby

Edward Herryson holdith a tenement with a croft containing di. acre and ij acres arable land, and rents by year ……. ijs

Crofton

Robert Jeffreyson holdith a tenement with a garth containing j acre and xvj acres of land arable in the fields, and rents by year ……

Carlisle

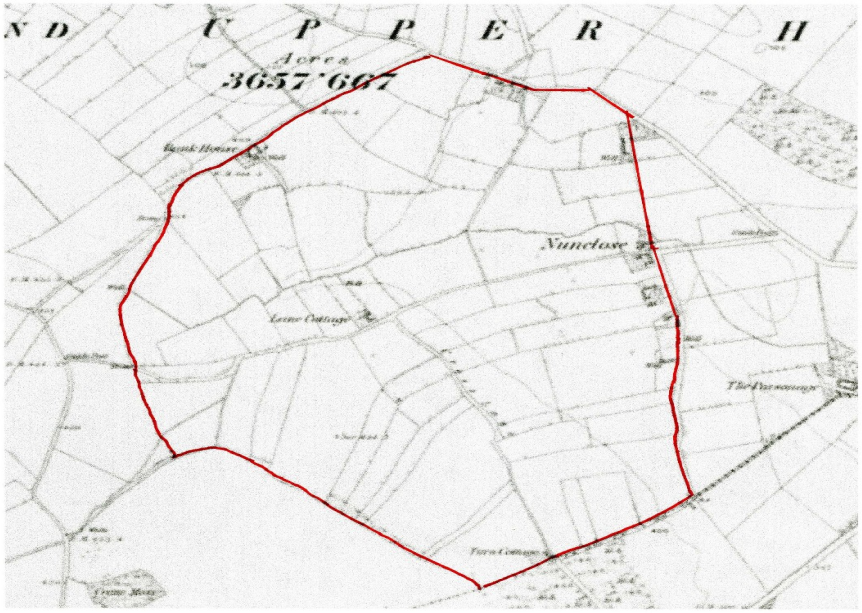
Also a rent going out of the lands of Our Sovereign Lord the King, in Carlisle, in be paid by the hands of the keeper of the towns of Carlisle, by the year xls by concession William Regis Conqueror et mode ……. nl

Item parsonage of Ansispilth, with all manner of tithes and oblations there onto belonging, with the tithes of the demanes of the said monastery, renuing with in the same by year …...vj^{li}

Sm tot xxli ijs iiijd. De quiz in reddu resoluta prori de Wetherall exeunt. de terr dnie ipm annum xijd. Et bishop of Carlisle pension out of the church of Ainstable p annum ijs vid

****

NUN CLOSE



6 inch OS 1st edition. Extent based on 216 acres

APPENDIX B

BIBLIOGRAPHY – NUNNERIES AND RELIGIOUS WOMEN

A comprehensive bibliography for medieval women religious can be found at:
https://historyofwomenreligious.org/women-religious-bibliography/medieval/

A selection, including publications on individual nunneries, is given below.

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